

“Digging Into Find A Grave”

www.findagrave.com – (written by Ruth Myers for talk to GSCC, Naples, FL on 11 Oct 2011)

Note: FAG = Find A Grave; the words “listing, memorial, grave, record” all refer to an FAG grave listing.

Facts about the website: It is all FREE.

- *It is listed on our society’s webpage - <http://thegscc.org/> - on the “Helpful Links” page.
- *The home page is divided into search of famous graves (on left side) and all other graves (on right side).
- *It has 68+ million grave registrations in 280,000 cemeteries in 170 countries – thousands added daily!
- *You can get all your questions answered by going to either “Frequently Asked Questions” on the home page, OR “Help with Find A Grave” on any other page.
- *You can easily get back to the home page by clicking on the words “Find A Grave”.
- *IMHO – the website is easily navigated, often with more than one way to do something.

FindAGrave.com has 3 purposes – in this order:

- 1st – a graves registration site –burial, cremation, scattered ashes, lost/buried at sea, donated to science;
- 2nd – a memorialization or remembrance site – each listing is a memorial to remember a life once lived;
- 3rd – a genealogical resource – info given is dependent on the individual who maintains the listing.

If you register (become a FAG member) – This allows you to add a memorial/grave/listing to FAG, request the transfer of a memorial, & edit memorials you manage. Remember your contributor #.

If you are the maintainer of a grave listing – you can make changes & additions, and make links to parents, spouse, & children. (To link you must know the memorial #s of the memorials you are linking.)

If you do not maintain a grave listing – you may ask for a transfer OR ask the maintainer to add/change info by the following procedure: *click on the small “Edit” box at the upper right > click on “Suggest a correction or provide additional information” > check the box “Send me a copy of this email” > write your request in the message box referring to the memorial # & give your name and your contributor # > then click “Send this message”*. This message is sent to the person who maintains the memorial, not to FAG.

How to search for a name:

- *On search page enter the name (or surname only) and county & state; OR enter name with state only; try variant spellings, initials.... Sometimes less is better.
- *Go to a cemetery page and enter the name – or try last name only and browse all results.

How to search for a cemetery:

- *Enter the cemetery name, county, & state; or try name & state, and browse all results; OR
- *Enter the county & state - then browse all cemeteries in that county; try different counties.

Enter a grave listing only if:

- * You are positive you know the correct cemetery;
- *You are sure the grave is not already listed on FAG – to eliminate duplicate listings.

How to add a grave listing:

- *Add either from the cemetery site or click on Add Burial Records > Family and Friends.
- *Fill in the data > Proceed to step 2 > View the memorial > note the memorial # and record it in the burial note of your genealogy program.

When writing a bio on a grave listing:

- *If using an obituary or excerpt from a historical book, state the source (i.e. name of newspaper & date);
- *Do not use names of living persons (instead state # of children, grandchildren, siblings, etc.);
- *Be accurate - otherwise, state that it is according to family tradition, an unsure source, etc.

Benefits of FindAGrave.com:

- *Locate unknown graves and ancestors.
- *Learn dates, places, & other previously unknown facts.
- *Make a virtual visit to a gravesite, and even leave flowers and a note if you wish.
- *Connect with new “cousins” or other persons researching a family line.
- *Honor your ancestors by adding them to the FAG website.